Granborough Parish Council

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

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese (item 9a onwards), Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Chilver and 0 member of the public

1. **Apologies;** Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier sent apologies.
2. **Open Forum for Parishioners;** No items were raised by members of the public.
3. **Interests:** No declarations of interest were made.
4. **Minutes;**
   Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 12th March 2024 as a true record**.**
5. **Finance;**
   a. ***Resolved:*** To accept the accounts for March 2024,
   b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 99 to 08 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A,
   c. ***Resolved:*** To accept the year-end balance, annual return, bank rec and explanation of variances, pending internal audit,
   d. ***Confirmed:*** The annual audit appointment is on 7th May which will allow for Council sign-off of audit documentation at the meeting on 21st May,
   e. ***Resolved:*** To approve the budget figures for 24/25,
   f. ***Resolved:*** The following small grants were awarded;
   NM&G Sportsfield £1000, Granborough 1st Scouts £200, Crusaders £200 and Charter Fayre £200.
6. **Planning:**
   a. ***Resolved;*** To agree a response of no objections to application 24/00913/ALB at 17 Winslow Road for removal of existing modern brick pier between ground floor playroom/ extension and insertion of steel RSJ within ceiling and supporting brick piers to walls,
   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.
7. **Bess and Rosefield Updates;**
   The Bess planning deadline has been extended, possibly due to an arboriculture report. North Buckinghamshire Planning Committee meetings have been cancelled in April so May is the earliest a committee will look at the application. ***Resolved:*** Cllr Chilver will enquire if a decision has been made about which committee will hear the application, when that is likely to be, and how the Parish Council will be notified.

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Rosefield: Cllr Fenwick will be attending a Rosefield Solar Farm DCO Member and Parish Council Briefing, tomorrow.

8. **Buckinghamshire Council Updates;** Cllr Chilver had no update to present.
9. **Councillors/Clerk/Administration;**
   a. ***Resolved;*** To accept the biodiversity policy without amendments, with the proviso that a wild spaces management plan is to follow in May.
   b. ***Resolved;*** To approve the Clerks annual progression, the standing order for pay will be updated accordingly.
   c. ***Resolved;*** The May meeting will start at 7pm to allow 30 minutes for the annual village meeting at which the small grant recipients will give a short update. It was requested that the Neighbourhood Watch representatives are approached for clarification on the scheme(s) in our area.
   d. ***Confirmed;*** Granborough Parish Council has signed the Civility and Respect pledge, the certificate can be seen on www.granborough.org under Parish Council Notices,
   e. ***Resolved;*** Not to enter the best kept village competition due to the prominent signage around the village, and the crash damage on Church Lane.
10. **Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways**
   a. The following new issues were raised;
      i. Fallen elm in Coronation Meadow hedgerow. Cllr Oakland cleared the tree from the footpath, a quote has been requested for clearing the remainder of the tree. A budget was agreed for the work.
      ii. A query was raised about accessibility on footpaths and in particular access on Green End. ***Resolved:*** The clerk will check accessibility guidelines.
   b. Updates on outstanding issues;
      i. The fixmystreet case for the broken bollards has been closed stating replacements will be added to a package of works to be carried out at some point in the future. ***Resolved:*** Cllr Chilver will investigate on our behalf.
      ii. Flooding on Marston Road is not an issue at present.
      iii. The LAT has suggested a location for the salt bin in Bates Close, which is not on private property ***Resolved:*** To put in an order for this location.
11. **Play Area;**
   a. The following new issues were raised;
      i. Seasaw repair weld: the paint has come off; the situation will be monitored. Inspection Reports indicate that no further action is required currently,

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b. Confirmed; The annual RoSPA inspection will take place in May.

c. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Fence posts: ongoing,

ii. ***Resolved:*** To accept the quote of £234 to fit a hydraulic return spring to the lower gate in the play area.

12. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow;

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;

i. Winter Clearance is mostly complete, dry weather is required for a bonfire.

ii. Buckthorne Saplings are planted,

iii. Lower Pond Liner: still waiting for the water level to drop,

iv. Wildflower meadow: the contractor thinks very little is growing due to the excessive rain preventing germination, the situation will be assessed again in the autumn.

b. The following new matters were reported;

i. There is possibly a split in the lining of the top pond which has caused the water level to drop, but since the pond is full of life at present, it will just be watched. More marginal planting will be considered,

ii. The paths through the meadow are overgrown, it has been too muddy to cut.

13. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. The following new issues were raised;

i. One of the White Gates on Marston Road has a rotten support. A quote for mending it has been received. ***Resolved:*** The council requested a quote be obtained for replacing the entire gate, before deciding on the best course of action. Quotes were also obtained for painting all four gates, the council accepted the quote, pending resolution of the rotten gate issue.

ii. The Phone Kiosk containing the Defibrillator has been destroyed this morning by a vehicle. Nobody witnessed the event; it was reported by a walker. BT have disconnected the electricity supply to make the site safe, but removal of the kiosk is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Defibrillator and safe will need to be uninstalled, checked for damage, and relocated elsewhere with an electricity supply.

Resolved: A replacement kiosk would not be worthwhile without an electricity supply, so it was suggested that an electrician is asked to run electrics from the Village Hall to the brick bus shelter, where the defibrillator could possibly be

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relocated, Cllr Oakland will obtain an electrician's quote. The Clerk will obtain a crime number from the police, investigate having the kiosk removed, speak to WelMedical about the condition of the defibrillator and safe and how to relocate them, and speak to the insurance company to determine whether a claim is worthwhile. A notice will be posted on the website for information.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Streetlights No. 2 and No. 9 on Green End are now repaired,

ii. SWARCO sell an MVAS unit which can be configured to meet Highways requirements. Whilst the Parish Council discussed leaving it at one site permanently, Highways have made it clear that the unit can't be static. The Parish Council will ringfence future funds for a new MVAS.
Cllr Oakland has charged our current MVAS battery.

iii. Asset cleaning is complete,

iv. After consulting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the direct debit to SSE was stopped, awaiting resolution of the billing issues. SSE have threatened late payment charges. The Clerk has once again written to SSE via mail and email asking that the billing queries are resolved. ***Resolved:*** The parish council decided to pay the latest bill, since the Clerk is spending an inordinate amount of time chasing SSE through various channels. An Ofgem complaint will be considered.

14. Devolved Services;

a. The RTM contract has been renewed and cutting has started, though not on schedule due to the wet conditions.

b. The Buckinghamshire Council devolved services contract has been renewed and the grant has been received.

15. Resilience Planning; The working party are working on a document in two parts; People and Roles and Risks. Once fleshed out the working party will meet with Buckinghamshire Council's Resilience Service team for feedback.

16. Website/Technology;

a. The following new issues were raised;

i. The issue of a .gov domain has been raised again since the Practitioners Guide is recommending that Parish Council's subscribe. The Parish Council has recently (December), renewed it's .org domain on a 3 year contract for £75, the .gov domain will cost more than £100 plus the necessary IT work to convert

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email addresses, then the time to update contacts and stationery etc.

Resolved: To continue with the .org domain at present, advice from Aubergine says a new domain should be run alongside an old domain for a year. The Council will therefore look to replace the domain next year.

ii. ***Confirmed:*** The website has passed the quarterly accessibility audit.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Agenda Packs, ongoing
ii. Google Analytics, ongoing
iii. Microsoft Upgrades for Cllr de Niese and Cllr Fenwick, ongoing
iv. Shared area for documents, ongoing
v. Office renewed: annual renewal for the Clerk is complete.

17. Outside Bodies;

a. Meetings attended;

i. NBPPC Meeting – Cllr Smedley gave a brief update.

b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion;

i. Rosefield Solar Briefing – Cllr Fenwick,
ii. Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllr Anderson.

18. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

Resolved; Cllr Smedley will respond to the Street Licensing consultation.

19. Items for the Next Agenda; Defibrillator update, Audit, Standard Documents

20. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 21st May 2024

The meeting closed at 21:27

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
99	£111.36	PAYE employer NI Contributions	£0.00
100	£5.00	Reimburse Smarty Simm to V Firth	£0.00
101	£120.00	Granborough Village Hall #010505	£0.00
102	£206.93	SSE Duplicate Payment in Error	£0.00
103	£16.75	PAYE employer NI Contributions	£11.87
104	£***.**	Clerks Pay March	£0.00
105	£34.55	Clerks expenses March	£0.00
106	£18.00	Quarterly Bank Charges	£0.00
1	£148.00	SLCC Membership #MEM248429-1	£0.00
2	£20.00	NBPPC annual subscription	£0.00
3	£100.38	BMKALC Membership #5241	£0.00
4	+ £1398.51	Bucks Council Devolved Services	£0.00
5	+ £12,450	Bucks Council Precept Payment #1	£0.00
6	£148.32	Reimburse (V Firth) Microsoft Office	£24.72
7	£5.00	Reimburse (V Firth) Smarty Monthly Plan	£0.00
8	£350.00	Jason Franklin, Asset Cleaning	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/OO913/ALB	17 Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
24/00353/APP	Ley Farm, Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
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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