Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2023

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier and 3 members of the public

167. Apologies; The Council accepted apologies from Cllr de Niese due to a personal commitment.

168. Open Forum for Parishioners; A query was raised regarding an enforcement issue which is awaiting an appeal start date.

169. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

170. Minutes;

Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 16th January 2024 as a true record.

171. Finance;

a. ***Resolved:*** To accept the accounts for January and February 2024,

b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 87 to 98 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. SSE complaint case ID: CAS0187673 for raising the charges on our three fixed price UMS's and increasing the VAT on 1 UMS. SSE confirm the bills are incorrect, now awaiting adjustments and credits for overpayments made. The VAT is an ongoing issue with SSE's Tax department being unable to decide which charge is correct,

e. Buckinghamshire Council's devolved services department have reissued all documents including contracts. Resulting issues have been amended, including our office address and grass cutting maps. No increase in grant has been offered despite additional grass cutting being undertaken. ***Resolved:*** To pursue the grant amount but to sign the contract and continue with devolved services,

f. Buckinghamshire Council's dog waste services have emptied the bins regularly with few issues since April '22 when management was moved in house. The administration, however, is severely lacking. There has been no contract or price consultation since March 23 despite a price increase being applied. There is no contract or price consultation for March 24 to April 25 despite requests.
Resolved: To pursue a price for 24/25 but continue with the service in the meantime,

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g. ***Resolved:*** The council will retain last year's figures for the pre-insurance questionnaire, one noticeboard has been added since last year, but the value is within the total street furniture budget,

h. ***Resolved:*** To appoint Brian Fludgate as the internal auditor for 2023 to 2024,

i. Councillors were reminded to please complete outstanding budget actions before the end of this month, for year end.

172. Planning:

a. ***Resolved;*** To agree a response of no objections to application 24/00353/APP at Ley Farm for Conversion of equestrian building (indoor riding arena) to commercial storage use (Class B8). External alterations to include the removal of the viewing platform, installation of fire doors and roller shutter doors,

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; There is an ongoing enforcement issue; the Parish Council is not reassured by the response from the enforcement officers. ***Resolved;*** The clerk will send an update to Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier for escalation.

173. Bess Update; Environment agency and highways authority comments are now on the portal.

174. Rosefield Solar Farm; No updates at this point.

175. Buckinghamshire Council Updates; The budget is now out of the way, there are pressures in elderly and juvenile care. There has been an additional £5m plus to help with pothole repairs. The Leader has made Parish Council's aware that pothole repairs are sometimes temporary and not expected to stay in place.

176. Councillors/Clerk/Administration;

a. Biodiversity policy; ***Resolved;*** Cllr Ellerton and the Clerk will prepare a draft for the meeting in May. It was also agreed that Biodiversity will become an agenda heading, replacing Coronation Meadow,

b. ***Resolved;*** To sign up to the Civility and Respect Project.

177. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

a. The following new issues have been raised;

i. Vehicle damaged bollards on Marston Road were reported on Fixmystreet and to the LAT. The bollards will be replaced.

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b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Flooding on Marston Road – deferred to the next meeting,

ii. Fence on the footpath opposite The Crown; the house owner is aware and will resolve the issue,

iii. Salt bin Bates Close; ***Resolved:*** A location has been suggested, the Clerk will check suitability. Orders can only be placed between March and August on Fixmystreet, the location will have to be approved by the LAT. The Council will then be billed, but bins are not situated until September to November.

178. Play Area;

a. The Council has received a request for nighttime lighting in the play area;
Resolved; After careful consideration the Council must decline this request, primarily as the cost and permissions for getting electricity to the play area are prohibitive. Inspection Reports indicate that no further action is required currently,

b. Updates on existing issues;

i. Fence post replacements can't be actioned whilst the ground is so wet,

ii. Spring on lower gate; ***Resolved:*** To ask Robert Kemp to quote for fitting a hydraulic return spring.

179. Coronation Meadow Project;

a. Outstanding Issues

i. Winter Clearance; the ground is still too wet,

ii. Buckthorne Saplings; Cllr Ellerton has purchased and kindly donated saplings,

iii. Lower pond liner; it's too wet to fit for fitting.

b. To agree any new actions; Cllr Ellerton reported that the wildflower seeds are not showing, causing concern that the seeds may have rotted in the wet.
Resolved; to review at the next meeting,
It was reported that noticeboard is looking tatty.
Resolved; to replace notices and to apply a protective treatment to the noticeboard once the weather improves.

180. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. New issues requiring attention;

i. Streetlight 9 on Green End, reported on 12th February, has not been fixed due to a transport issue at Eon,

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ii. Streetlight 3 in Denham View reported on 21st February has been fixed,
iii. Streetlight 2 on Green End was reported to Eon on 8th March.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Closed Noticeboard; installed and added to the asset register,
ii. MVAS; after contacting the national complaints board at SWARCO, the contract was finally sent through for renewal. Notice was issued that in future years only a 3 year contract will be available. The Parish Council is struggling to find a Solar MVAS that will meet Highways sign requirements of no smiley faces and no additional wording, advice has been sought but no recommendations are forthcoming. Other Clerks have also warned that Solar MVAS signs are very heavy and difficult to move between ground screws. ***Resolved;*** To continue looking for compliant MVAS signs and to consider a static sign in the future.

181. Devolved Services;

a. ***Resolved:*** As agreed above, the contract will be renewed,

b. The parish clerk has sought new prices from RTM since none were forthcoming. The prices are just within the budget set. ***Resolved:*** To renew the contract with RTM.

182. Resilience Planning;

The working party met. A council activated plan is being drafted. Next steps include building in the names and contacts of people who might be useful and preparing a communication to the village requesting offers of help. An annual review process is intended. Any useful information or feedback to be passed to Cllr Anderson.

183. Website/Technology;

a. New issues; BMKALC sent a message suggesting that .org domains were not secure enough for GDPR purposes. On further investigation it seems domains are not the issue, it's the security of the centrally managed document/email storage system and Office 365 fits the prescribed requirements. ***Resolved:*** to continue with our current set-up.

b. Updates on outstanding issues; **these are deferred to the next meeting due to the absence of Cllr de Niese.**

i. Agenda Packs;
ii. Google Analytics
iii. Microsoft Upgrades for Cllr de Niese and Cllr Fenwick
iv. Shared area for documents

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v. Notification from Microsoft of renewal of the Clerks subscription has been received.

184. Outside Bodies;

a. Meetings attended;

i. Clerks Forum 23rd January
ii. Parish Liaison Meeting 24th January
iii. Future of Neighbourhood Planning 26th January
iv. Community Boards 7th February
v. BC Planning Forum 27th February
vi. East West Rail Meeting; Network Rail are testing the Bicester to Beltchley line at night, there is no government decision as yet on the Aylesbury link, the trains will be diesel instead of battery/electric which is environmentally unfriendly.

b. Upcoming meetings; None in the next month.

185. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

a. Community Boards Boundary Review Survey ***Resolved:*** Cllr Ellerton will forward a response to the Clerk, to fill in online,

b. Martyn's Law; after reviewing the criteria it seems the proposed law is not applicable to Granborough Parish Council.

186. Items for the Next Agenda; year-end accounts and audit, small grants.

187. To confirm the date of the next meeting: 23rd April 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
87	£5.00	Mrs V Firth (Smarty Subs)	£0.00
88	£193.53	SSE Electricity, November	£11.10
89	£140.00	P.R.A. Randles, bus shelter roof	£0.00
90	£***.**	Clerks Pay January	£0.00
91	£34.55	Clerks Expenses January	£0.00
92	£35.00	ICO Annual Fee	£0.00
93	£5.00	SMARTY monthly subs, reimburse V Firth	£0.00
94	£348.49	SWARCO MVAS Maintenance Contract	£58.08
95	£206.93	SSE - Street Lighting December	£11.87
96	£***.**	Clerks Pay February	£0.00
97	£420.62	Bucks Council Dog Bin Annual Charge	£70.10
98	£71.48	Clerks Expenses February	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	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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