Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th January 2024

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, and 9 members of the public.

148. Apologies; The council accepted apologies from Cllr Ellerton due to a personal commitment and from Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier.

149. Open Forum for Parishioners; (Extended to 30 minutes)
Members of the public made representations regarding application 23/03875/APP for a BESS at Rookery Farm.

150. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

151. Minutes;
Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 12th December 2023 as a true record.

152. BESS Proposal

a. The working party chairman presented a summary of the results obtained from Granborough residents' questionnaires. 272 questionnaire responses were received, of those 85% were opposed to the BESS whilst 15% were in favour or undecided. Councillors asked about the verification process and whether climate change or associated reasons were the only justification given by those supporting the proposal. The parish council wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all members of the working party, and particularly Steve Slater for Chairing.
A late communication from Statera, responding to points raised at the open meeting on 6th January, was also read out (available on the website).

b. ***Resolved:*** To agree a response of Object to application 23/03875/APP for a BESS at Rookery Farm on the following planning grounds;

i. Excessive scale of the development,
ii. Environmental impact,
iii. Effect on the existing landscape including visual intrusion,
iv. Fire safety,
v. Inappropriate location,
vi. Cumulative impact having regard to an extant planning consent at Tucky Farm in Granborough for a solar farm,
vii. An inadequate noise assessment of the proposal in relation to the potential impact on the adjacent footpaths.

Should the planning authority decide to agree the application, the parish council would seek conditions on the following;

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i. Highways and traffic – only using the haul route at all times except for the 4 abnormal indivisible loads (AILs), as referred to in the planning application,
ii. No increase later in height of the buildings/structures above that shown on the existing application,
iii. Landscape improvement to be undertaken in advance of the development and to include mature planting, and a request for the management and finance of the landscaped area to be under separate management and with guaranteed finance,
iv. Restriction on working hours and no working at weekends and on bank holidays,
v. Controls on lighting, noise, and acoustic screening of any generators,
vi. Vehicles to be able to turn to allow forward movement and to avoid reversing,
vii. Wheel wash facilities to be provided before development commences and operated during the entire construction period,
viii. Details of the restoration of the site to be submitted, agreed, and carried out in accordance with approved details,
ix. Independent verification of Fire Controls,

It was also agreed to ask our ward councillors to call-in the application for decision by committee rather than by officer under delegated power, to the North Buckinghamshire Planning Committee.

153. Finance;

a. ***Resolved:*** To accept the accounts for December 2023,

b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 79 to 86 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A,

c. ***Confirmed:*** The precept request was submitted on 13th December, receipt confirmed by the precept administration team on the same day,

d. NM&G Sportsfield has applied for funding from the WVCB for drainage/improvement works costing £16,500 plus VAT. Both North Marston and Granborough parish councils are being asked to contribute £1,000 each to support the funding request. ***Resolved:*** The parish council will contribute £1,000 in the next financial year.

e. ***Resolved:*** To approve the small grants form for 24/25, to open the scheme on 12th March, applications deadline will be 19th April, applications considered at the meeting on 23rd April, Village AGM on 21st May, payment directly afterwards. The scheme will be advertised on the website and the Facebook page,

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f. The council were made aware that SSE have changed their billing systems, and an error has been noticed on the bill. The Clerk has been issued a case number but has not been contacted to resolve the matter. Email contact is impossible, and telephones are not being answered, the matter is ongoing.

154. Planning:

a. ***Resolved:*** To agree a response of No objections to application 23/03864/ALB at 17 Winslow Road for repairs to timber frame, replacement of 4No windows and provision of French Drain,

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.

155. Buckinghamshire Council Updates: None submitted.

156. Councillors/Clerk/Administration:

a. ***Resolved:*** To accept the playground inspection rota to March 2025, and update the reminder emails and portal with these dates,

b. ***Resolved:*** To accept the meeting dates for 24/25, and to update these on the website and in the diary,

c. The council should have a biodiversity policy, BALC has suggested a template. This item is deferred for input from Cllr Ellerton.

157. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

a. The following new issues have been raised;

i. Highway flooding has caused a resident's electric gates to fail,
Resolved: Details will be forwarded to the Clerk to raise with the LAT.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Falling fence on the footpath opposite The Crown; ongoing,

ii. Request for Bates Close salt bin. ***Resolved:*** Agreed since there are no salt bins in the area, Cllr Fenwick will suggest an appropriate location,

iii. Resurfacing work outside the Church and in Church Lane is now complete.

158. Play Area;

a. Inspection Reports indicate that no further action is required currently,

b. ***Reminder:*** replacement fence posts and the lower gate spring, awaiting better weather.

159. Coronation Meadow Project;

a. Updates on existing issues;

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i. Winter clearance schedule and notice for volunteers: deferred,
ii. Buckthorne saplings: deferred,
iii. Lower pond liner: deferred.

b. New actions required; None at present.

160. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. New issues requiring attention;

i. The bus shelter roof requires repair. ***Resolved:*** To accept the quote from Roy Randles of £140, for repairing the storm damage.

b. Updates on outstanding issues

i. Closed Noticeboard; awaiting notification for collection,
ii. MVAS: At present SWARCO have failed to act on the council's request to renew our service contract,
Cllr Oakland met with a resident and explained the constraints imposed by Highways and finances,
Resolved: The clerk will look for solar units which meet Highways standards, for the Council to consider fund building towards.

161. Devolved Services;

a. ***Confirmed:*** An expression of interest email was sent to the Devolution mailbox on 13th December and acknowledged. No further contact has been made.

b. ***Resolved:*** To accept the quote of £350 to clean village assets including, road signs, road name signs, phone box, bus shelters, white gates, and salt bins. Work should start after 1st April 2024.

162. Website/Technology;

a. There were no new issues raised,

b. The following updates were received;

i. Agenda packs: Cllr de Niese will address this matter,
ii. Google analytics: Cllr de Niese will contact Aubergine as the version of WordPress appears to be wrong.
iii. Microsoft upgrades: Cllr de Niese will upgrade Cllr Fenwick.

163. Outside Bodies;

a. Upcoming meetings: 23rd January Clerks Forum, 24th January Parish Liaison Meeting (yet to be confirmed), 26th January Future of Neighbourhood Planning (Cllr Fenwick).

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b. Meetings attended: 10th January NBPPC meeting (Cllr Fenwick), a brief update was given to the meeting. ***Resolved:*** Cllr de Niese will appoint a shared area on Office, for storing outside meeting minutes and slides.

164. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

a. Town & Parish Survey Results, the clerk will find out more from the clerks forum.

165. Items for the Next Agenda; Resilience Planning, Rosefield Engagement to include an understanding of the process.

166. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 12th March 2024, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21:34

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
79	£61.16	V Firth – Domain Name Renewal	£10.19
80	£238.80	Aubergine Annual Subs	£39.80
81	£5.00	Smarty Monthly Subs	£0.00
82	£733.10	Greenbarnes Ltd Noticeboard	£122.19
83	£18.00	Quarterly Bank Charges	£0.00
84	£***.**	Clerks Pay December	£0.00
85	£34.55	Clerks Expenses December	£0.00
86	£45.00	Parish Online (mapping) annual subs	£7.50

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
23/03875/APP	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road	Awaiting Decision
23/03898/AGN	Lower End Farn, Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
23/03864/ALB	17 Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting Decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting Decision
23/03808/APP	The Grain Store	Awaiting Decision

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