Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th July 2023

**Attendees:** Cllr Anderson, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Oakland (Chair), Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, and 7 member of the public

**48. Apologies;** Cllr Fenwick, Cllr de Niese and Cllr Smedley sent apologies due to personal commitments. Buckinghamshire's Cllr Chilver, Stanier and Goss sent apologies.

#### 49. Open Forum for Parishioners;

The Council received six emails from residents who could not be present, objecting to application 23/02001/COUAR. Several residents spoke against the application, a report from Chapman Planning was presented, setting out reasons why the barn should not be converted under permitted development. Evidence was also provided of the protected status designation of the land on which the barn is situated, calling into question the validity of permitted development rights.

Several residents, also spoke strongly against the Statera Battery project, expressing dissatisfaction in their perceived role of the Parish Council in raising residents' awareness and researching information to help in getting the application (which is yet to be submitted), refused. The residents cited an environmental impact study which the Parish Council has not reviewed and went on to request that the Parish Council organise a working party to look at all aspects of the future Statera planning application.

Without a detailed application for the proposal to respond to, and with no clear indication of most resident's views, the Parish Council is yet to consider whether to approve or object to the project. Once an application is received the Parish Council plan to call a village meeting, and the Parish Council will support the majority view of Granborough residents.

**50. Interests:** No declarations of interest were made.

#### 51. Minutes;

**Resolved:** To accept the Minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as a true record.

At this point item 53 was brought forward, returned to the numbered order thereafter.

### 52. Finance;

- **a.** Internal Auditor Brian Fludgate held a short session explaining the relevance of the AGAR and the importance of strong internal processes. Legislation, paypal and reputational damage were touched on, Councillors being familiar with the Good Councillors Guide, was recommended.
- **b.** *Confirmed:* The period for the exercise of public rights closed on 14<sup>th</sup> July, no requests were received.
- c. Resolved: To accept the accounts for June 2023.

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- d. Ratified: Payment for a replacement defibrillator battery of £279.54.
- **e.** *Resolved:* Cllr Fenwick and Cllr Anderson will be added to the signatories list, the Clerk will need information from both parties to facilitate. Nobody is experiencing difficulties with the new Unity Banking platform.
- **f.** North Marston and Granborough Sportsfield sent a request for funding, noting that none has been received since 2019. The NM&G Sportsfield has not used the small grants scheme since 2019, hence funds have not been provided. An offer to help apply for a community boards grant, was extended.

**Resolved:** The request will be considered but more information is required, including how the funding is to be used. No representative attended the meeting to answer questions.

- g. Ratified: Payments 27 to 35 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A.
- **h.** With the meeting running short on time, agreeing the small grants form for 2023/4 was deferred to the next meeting.

#### 53. Planning:

- **Resolved;** To agree a response of no objections to application 23/01887/APP at 54 Winslow Road for a single storey rear extension.
- **b.** *Resolved;* To agree a response of 'object' to application 23/02001/COUAR at Land to the south of Hogshaw Road for permitted development conversion of the barn, to a residence. A full response will be recorded before 1st August deadline.
- **c.** *Confirmed;* A status update on current planning applications was obtained from the planning portal, please see Appendix B.
- **d.** *Resolved:* Enforcement case NC/23/00281/OPDEV has been raised for unauthorised laying of hardstanding on the shrunken medieval village earthworks site.

  No updates could be obtained on appeal APP/J0405/C/22/3313816.
- **54. Buckinghamshire Council Updates;** No councillors were present.
- 55. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways
  - a. No new issues were raised.
  - **b.** Updates on outstanding issues;
    - i. Grass cutting at the bridge was agreed by the Local Area Technician but carried out in the meantime by a private individual.
    - ii. A village walkaround with Matt Whincup of Buckinghamshire Council took place. The pavement on Denham view has been earmarked for repair, the road outside the church has been earmarked for repair, the kerb stones on Winslow

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Road will be repaired. Rewilding verges was discussed, so long as a vision splay is maintained Highways will not object. It was confirmed that the speed indicator device is not suitable for Green End. No view was expressed on the Winslow Road street light which was moved to accommodate the new houses.

### 56. Play Area;

- **a.** New issues raised;
  - i. Brambles on the lower fence need to be removed *Resolved:* The Clerk will ask RTM for a quote.
  - ii. The toddler swing cradle needs replacing, a quote for £149.00 excluding VAT has been obtained. *Resolved:* To replace the toddler swing cradle.
  - iii. The bolts are loose on the log walk. *Resolved:* Cllr Oakland will tighten them when carrying out the next inspection.
- b. Resolved; to defer discussion of the RoSPA Report until Cllr de Niese is in attendance.
- c. Outstanding issues yet to be addressed by Cllr de Niese;
  - i. The key for the play area bin
  - ii. The fault flagging system

### 57. Coronation Meadow Project;

- a. Updates on existing issues;
  - i. The Coir Rolls have successfully been installed.
  - ii. A poster for the noticeboard is now in place.
  - iii. Cllr Ellerton held wild flower discussions with Blades Turf Care and would like to go ahead with a proposal for 1 strip to be prepared and planted.

**Resolved:** A budget of £1250 including VAT was agreed, Cllr Ellerton will apply for a grant for the cost of seeds, to the Community Boards.

- iv. The fencing around the pond has been completed by Robert Kemp.
- v. A hose has been purchased for topping up the ponds.
- **b.** The following new actions were discussed;
  - i. The top pond needs ongoing maintenance.
  - ii. A further notice is required asking for children to be kept away from the pond and dogs to be kept on leads.

### 58. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

- **a.** The following new actions were raised;
  - i. A fault on street light no. 7 on Green End has been reported to E.on
- **b.** The following updates were received;

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- i. Light no. 3 on Green End has been repaired.
- ii. The defibrillator battery has been replaced.
- iii. Swarco MVAS service found no fault with the batteries.

  Batteries were charged and replaced on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

#### 59. Devolved Services;

- **a.** Cllr Oakland met with Wayne from RTM. Grass cutting areas in relation to the maps and grass cutting standards, were reconfirmed. *Resolved:* To note the addition of the verge in front of the new houses on Winslow Road, and the green in Sovereign Close.
- **b.** *Resolved:* The Parish Council decided not to take up the invitation to extend grass cutting, since no increase in funding and no cover for liability has been offered.

### 60. Website/Technology;

- **a.** New issues requiring attention; None.
- **b.** Guidelines for what is appropriate to publish on the website, general improvements for the website and inclusion of road closure information, requires discussion. This item is deferred to the next meeting.
- **c.** Update on email addresses; this item is deferred to the next meeting.
- d. Resolved: To agree the renewal of anti-virus software for the laptop, in August.

#### 61. Outside Bodies;

Cllr Anderson attended the Parish Liaison Meeting. Of note; Bucks Council are not up to speed with the cutting of verges outside of villages, fixmystreet reports are being closed inappropriately; Parishes should make use of the "dangerous" indicator where appropriate, and quotes for any Highways requirements do not need to be exclusively through Balfour Beatty.

### 62. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

**Resolved:** The Clerk will complete the Town and Parish Council survey online, one final comment is awaited.

- **63. Items for the Next Agenda**; Resilience Planning, NM&G Sportsfield, Small Grants Form, Play Area actions including RoSPA, Technology working party meeting, Risk Assessment update on reputational damage.
- **64.** To confirm the date of the next meeting; 12th September 2023

The meeting closed at 21:28

| Signed:                     |             | Date: |                   |  |
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| lambledon Barn, Main Street |             |       | Tel: 07989 755580 |  |

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix A - Payments Ratified

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

| Ref | Amount  | Expenditure                           | VAT     |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 27  | £5.00   | Smarty Sim Reimburse (V Firth)        | £0.00   |
| 28  | £115.20 | RoSPA Annual Inspection               | £19.20  |
| 29  | £598.80 | A.C. Kemp – Play Area Gates           | £99.80  |
| 30  | £25.19  | Cllr H Ellerton reimburse for hose    | £0.00   |
| 31  | £279.54 | Wel Medical replacement Defib Battery | £46.59  |
| 32  | £***.** | Clerks Pay June                       | £0.00   |
| 33  | £18.00  | Bank Charges April/May/June           | £0.00   |
| 34  | £982.08 | RTM Landscaping June Invoice          | £163.68 |
| 35  | £34.55  | Clerks Expenses June                  | £0.00   |
|     |         |                                       |         |

Invoices 29, 31, 32, and 34 were verified and signed by Cllrs Oakland and Ellerton.

## Appendix B - Planning Update

| Application    | Where                          | Decision          |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 23/02001/COUAR | Farm Building Off Hogshaw Road | Awaiting Decision |
| 23/01887/APP   | 54 Winslow Road                | Awaiting Decision |
| 23/00214/APP   | 20D Green End                  | Awaiting Decision |
| 22/01260/APP   | The Crown Public House         | Awaiting Decision |
|                |                                |                   |
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